

OrdnanceReports

News updates from around the world



June 4, 2003



This publication is produced by the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Communications Coordinator. The purpose of this publication is to provide Command Information materiel concerning world events and the U.S. military's role in those events. Ordnance specific events will be covered if appropriate. Direct your correspondence to Ed Starnes at 410-278-2415 (DSN 298-2415), or email edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil.

Army to award promotion points for civilian certifications

When Tank Commanders pull their M1A-2 Abrams Tank into the Baghdad maintenance shop for a turbine engine tune-up, they may not see the familiar ASE blue shield sign hanging in the front, but the Army mechanic that performs the work may be ASE certified.

For years, Army mechanics have individually earned ASE certifications as a method of self-improvement and professional development. Their only award for this achievement has been self-satisfaction. That's now changing.

Starting in October, the Army will begin awarding promotion points to their automotive mechanics and electronics repairmen who earn civilian technical certifications directly related to their trade. Each Army mechanic can earn 10 points for each certification up to a maximum of 50 points. The Army currently promotes their soldiers to junior grade noncommissioned officers using a scoring system that allows them to earn and compile points from such areas as education, awards, special achievements, and performance.



Currently, the Army's promotion system does not really look at how proficient a skilled technician is in their job, but now, one branch in the Army is taking their technical expertise very seriously. The Army's Chief Enlisted Career Manager for its automotive mechanics and mechanical maintenance technicians, Sergeant Major James Herrell explains: "You know, we have some pretty exciting stuff we work

on in the Army, but as a general rule, we do the same jobs civilians do. Yes, the Abrams Tank may have a turbine engine, and yes, the armament system on a Bradley Fighting Vehicle includes thermal imagers, but if I recall, turbine engines are becoming quite popular in the power generation community, and I think I remember seeing a TV commercial of a Cadillac with a thermal imaging device on a heads-up display. Heck, every time I turn around I'm seeing a civilian version HUMMER drive by. So our position is the gap between high-tech military technology and civilian equipment is not as wide as one thinks."

Most of the technical fields affected by this new policy belong to the Army's Ordnance Corps, one of the Army's largest branches

with nearly 118,000 Total Army soldiers. "We consider ourselves the Army's Tradesmen with 45 technically-related jobs including electronics technicians, automotive mechanics, explosives and munitions specialists, and allied trades such as welders, machinists, and HVAC repair specialists", explained Herrell. We've been working on this policy for quite some time now, and we were recently successful in convincing the Department of the Army that we should use the same measures of technical competency as our civilian counterparts and reward our soldiers who earn them.



National skill standards are an important component of quality management and customer satisfaction, and the US Army has fully embraced these practices by adopting nationally recognized industry standards as a part of their personnel professional development models.

An example of the Army's commitment to professional credentialing is the

Ordnance Corps' recent accreditation of their welding course by the American Welding Society, the machinist course by the National Institute for Metalworking Skills, and all the electronics training by the Electronics Technician Association. Still in the works is the accreditation of all automotive training under ASE's CASE program and the HVAC training under the Partnership For Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Accreditation.

"Professional credentialing of our soldiers is a win-win for everyone", Herrell explained. Young people considering the Army as a good place to learn a new technical skill can now attend nationally accredited training, earn professional certifications free of charge (The Army pays for certifications up to \$2000 per certification), and receive more rapid promotions because of it. The Army wins by getting more proficient technicians, and civilian industry wins by getting a more qualified technician when the soldier returns to civilian life.

"Consider that the next time you think about your Army. You can no longer think about us as an Army that only prosecutes war and

continued on page 2

U.S. troops attacked in Baghdad

by Ghassan al-Kadi

BAGHDAD, Iraq, June 4 (UPI) — Unknown gunmen targeted U.S. troops in Baghdad Wednesday, inflicting a number of casualties, in the latest attack on coalition forces.

Witnesses said the gunmen opened fire on a U.S. patrol in the Abu Dashir quarter of the capital.

The witnesses said a number of U.S. soldiers were wounded. There was no independent confirmation of the attack.

Recent weeks have seen several attacks on the occupation forces in Baghdad. Last week, gunmen blasted U.S. troops in the Azamiah district with rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons fire, inflicting casualties. Two Iraqis were killed in the firefight.

Also Wednesday, a group calling itself Mohammad's Army, urged members of the toppled Baath party and the dissolved Republican Guards and security organs to reorganize and wage a guerrilla war to force U.S. troops out of Iraq.

"It is high time that you prove to your people that you are men and ready to spill your blood to erase the shame that stained the Iraqi army," said the statement that was widely distributed in Baghdad.

It also called on Iraqi citizens to assist what it called mujahedin by giving them shelter and concealing them from the occupying forces.

Every Iraqi who collaborates with the coalition forces is a traitor, the statement warned, promising to punish those "who have placed their hands in the hand of U.S. ruler Paul Bremer," Washington's civil administrator in Iraq.



Young Iraqi students glance back at US soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division as they conduct foot patrol at Fallujah, 60 kilometers west of Baghdad on Wednesday, June 4, 2003. Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division descend Wednesday in Fallujah and Habaniyah to quell an increasing anti-American resistance. (AP Photo/Ali Haider)



PFC Darnell Cooper from New York and belonging to the US Army "C" Company 16th INF 1st Armored Division, prepares to cut the plastic cuff on orphaned drug addict Radha, 12, after being briefly held for bullying other orphans at a commercial center in Baghdad, Iraq Wednesday June 4, 2003. At right is US Army PFC Brian Perwerton of Houston, Texas. (AP Photo/Bullit Marquez)

Army to award promotion points for civilian certifications continued

destroys the enemy. You have to look upon your young soldiers not only as warriors, but also as true professionals in their trade that have attained the same level of technical expertise and competency as the civilian workforce. Awarding promotion points for civilian

credentials is one of many things the Army is doing to ensure your Army remains the most professional organization in world history, and the Ordnance Corps is leading the way in that regard", beamed Herrell.

HOMELAND DEFENSE

www.defenselink.mil/specials/homeland/

Story and photo by Spc. Travis Edwards, 1st COSCOM PAO

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Troops deployed in Afghanistan use a variety of equipment from environmental control units and high-mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicles to night vision devices and self-propelled artillery cannons. During everyday wear and tear equipment gets dirty, damaged and eventually becomes unusable.

Maintenance units fix equipment damaged by heat, dust and wind

This equipment has to be fixed properly and precisely. The maintenance units at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan turn to one company for support, the 372nd Direct Support Unit, Ohio National Guard. The unit operates as the 'third-shop' maintenance facility on the base and is attached to the 264th Logistical Task Force from 1st Corps Support Command, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

"Heat, dust, and heavy winds create a majority of the equipment failures on post. The biggest problem out here is of course the elements combined with poor preventative maintenance checks and service," said Spc. Leron Corbin, 372nd DSU, Logistical Task Force 264th, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. Corbin, a father of four, works in a lamination factory when not activated as part of the Ohio National Guard.

Since the unit arrived in theatre in April over 500 job orders have been placed and 471 have been completed, said military officials.

"We get a lot of equipment that fails due to the changing temperature extremes. Everyday there are more and more pieces that come in broken," said Spc. Scotty Sloyer, 372nd DSU, LTF 264th. "Even proper PMCS won't keep the air conditioners and other equipment from breaking down. So, we make sure we have enough parts on hand to replace what breaks down."

The unit's storage room houses repair parts for thousands of pieces of military equipment.

"Once we took over the direct support mission we began to inventory, catalog, label, and organize every piece of equipment in the parts room for proper stockage. Over \$1,400,000 has been processed since the project began in April," said Spc. Ebony Miller, the parts clerk for the unit. Miller is a credit analysis associate when not serving the Ohio National Guard.

"Once an inspector identifies any problems with the equipment, they check to see if we have the parts necessary to repair it properly," said Miller.

The Maintenance Control Supervisor, Master Sgt. David Merrin, 372nd DSU, verifies all items turned into the DSU, then turns it to Sgt. 1st Class Charles Galati, 372nd DSU, who disseminates the items to specific sections for inspection.

"Every piece of equipment is given a thorough inspection to identify the problem it may be having," said First Sgt. Terry Mullins, first sergeant, 372nd DSU.

"Each section has personnel who specialize in specific equipment. For example, air conditioning and generators have someone, where night vision devices require someone else. We have a wide variety of soldiers in the unit," said Galati, a shipping company mechanic in the civilian world.

"There are quite a variety of military occupational specialties in our



company," said Mullins. "Everyone learns something each day from each day."

"In this company the old Army tradition of learning the job of the person above and below you holds true. When our First Sergeant went on emergency leave Master Sgt. Merrin took over and we all moved up one position," said Galati. "The training of leaders in the unit and cross training has helped us perform above standard in this combat zone."

"The Ohio National Guard provided LTF 264th with the right kind of soldiers, motivated, dedicated, and professional," said Lt. Col. Matthew Broaddus, commander, LTF 264th. "Mixing the high speed active-duty personnel in this battalion with the high speed Guardsmen has raised the bar of excellence in the Operational Enduring Freedom theatre."

"The soldiers have taken their basic skills and advanced them to the next level," said Mullins. "They go the extra mile to get it done right the first time, keeping U.S. forces at Bagram Air Base combat ready to fight the war on terror."

Officials: U.S. may use bases in Balkans

by George Jahn

CONSTANTA, Romania (AP) - U.S. troops may soon use Balkans bases for training sites and staging points for possible interventions in the Middle East as the Pentagon weighs withdrawing 15,000 soldiers from Germany, diplomats and government officials in Europe say.

Speculation about U.S. bases in newly democratic eastern Europe began months ago with NATO's decision to expand membership to the former Soviet bloc. On a recent stop in Bulgaria, which joins next year, Gen. Charles Wald, deputy U.S. Army commander in Europe, said that "as NATO moves east our presence and our participation will have to be where NATO is."

But Balkan bases first used by the Americans during the Iraq war may get a full-time U.S. presence even before the official NATO expansion, said Western diplomats and local officials, who agreed to discuss the situation on condition of anonymity.

They said the Pentagon wants to use big Romanian and Bulgarian training grounds in year-round programs that would have up to 3,000 battle-ready U.S. soldiers here at any time. Speaking separately, two diplomats said such training could begin "within months, not years."

None of those who spoke about the possible bases reported any formal agreement, but they indicated the parties were discussing the details of allowing U.S. military bases in the two countries. Legislation would be needed to implement such agreements.

Asked about the comments, a Pentagon spokesman in Washington, Lt. Dan Hetlage, said Tuesday that no decisions had been made on using the bases.

The idea is for the U.S. troops - infantry, artillery, light armor and helicopters - to undergo intense training of 30-90 days, then return to bases in western Europe or the United States, the sources said.

But the diplomats and officials said the troops would also be ready for quick movement to trouble spots in the Middle East or Central Asia.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and other Pentagon officials have said they are studying how to shift U.S. troops around the world to respond to new threats such as terrorism.

"This is probably the closest point in Europe to the sort of threat which is centered in the areas of Central Asia, (or) the (Persian) Gulf," Romanian Defense Minister Ioan Mircea Pascu said in an interview.

Bulgarian Foreign Minister Solomon Pasi told The Associated Press that the region also is a good jumping off point for fighting international terrorists groups, "an enemy hidden somewhere, without a capital, without a face, without a government."

In Romania, the Americans are interested in the Mihail Kogalniceanu

air base, the Babadag training range and the Black Sea military port of Mangalia. In Bulgaria, talks are focusing on the use of the Sarafovo and Graf Ignatievo military airports and the Koren and Novo Selo training areas.

Lt. Cmdr Rick Haupt, a spokesman for U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany, said consideration of the Balkans for training was part of Rumsfeld's "larger vision to transform the military into a more agile force."

While not directly linked, the idea for Balkans bases and the possible withdrawal of nearly a quarter of the 80,000 U.S. military personnel in Germany appear connected by shifting strategic and political considerations.

U.S. forces were reduced after the Cold War ended, and further cuts in central and western Europe make economic and strategic sense. Adding to the case for rebasing is American unhappiness over German and French opposition to the war in Iraq while the governments of ex-communist countries supported Washington, providing moral and some military support.

U.S. officials speaking on the record deny there are firm plans to pull troops from Germany. But senior diplomats and officials say privately that it is being considered. A ranking diplomat with deep knowledge of U.S. plans said he knew of no firm time frame, but "a lot of them will be going home."

A senior Romanian official in regular contact with ranking U.S. officials said he was told 15,000 Americans would be withdrawn from Germany in the foreseeable future. "They would be welcome here," the official said.

At the Mihail Kogalniceanu air base, U.S. contracts have paid for Romanian crews to resurface and widen two roads, build a third and improve landing areas to accommodate the Americans' largest planes.

Existing accommodations for up to 6,000 service personnel also have been upgraded with central heating and other amenities, said Col. Victor Luchian, the Romanian commander of the base.

About 3,000 Americans, including special operations units, were at the base during the Iraq war, flying troops and weapons directly to the front.

Luchian said that most of them would be gone soon, but that a small crew would remain for maintenance. He shrugged when asked how long they would stay.

A senior diplomat was more direct on the American presence. "They'll never go home," he said.

www.goarmy.com

Army birthday to be celebrated worldwide

by Spc. Bill Putnam

WASHINGTON (Army News Service June 3, 2003) - Even while conducting a war on terrorism and the rebuilding of Iraq, the Army is celebrating its 228th birthday this year.

The actual birthday is June 14, but celebrations will be held throughout the month of June from ballparks to ball rooms, the Pentagon to Camp Zama, Japan.

This year's theme "U.S. Army — At War and Transforming" will be celebrated at posts around the world and several sporting events around the country.

In the Military District of Washington, soldiers of Headquarters, Department of the Army will run through Arlington National Cemetery June 10. Members of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment will deliver cakes to members of Congress.

Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, the Army chief of staff will lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns June 13. Later that morning, a cake-cutting ceremony will be held in the Pentagon courtyard.

The 228th Army Birthday Ball, the area's big bash, will be held at the Washington Hilton and Towers June 21. This year's Army Ball will include featured performances from the U.S. Army Soldiers Show, performing groups from the U.S. Army Field Band including "The Jazz Ambassadors," "The Soldier's Chorus" and "The Volunteers."

At Camp Zama, Japan, the most senior and junior soldiers will cut an Army birthday cake June 14. Maj. Gen. Robert M. Shea, deputy commander of United Forces Command Japan will also give a speech that day.

The Hawaii-based 25th Infantry Division will host an Army Birthday Ball with 400 members of the local military and civilian communities attending the evening of June 12.

Fort Sill, Okla., will commemorate the day with the post's 77th Army Band participating in pre-game activities at a Texas Rangers baseball game, and a ceremony on post.

Soldiers from the U.S. Army Accessions Command will also hand out thousands of U.S. flags and "Support Your Soldiers" postcards before several sporting events around the country the weekend of June 14 to 15 and June 28. The Army memorabilia will be passed out to sign and send to soldiers deployed overseas.

The flags and postcards will be passed out at baseball games in Camden Yards in Baltimore; Fenway Park in Boston; Jacobs Field in Cleveland; Comerica Park in Detroit; Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City; The Metrodome in Minneapolis; Ballpark in Arlington, Texas; The Great American Ballpark in Cincinnati; Edison Field in Anaheim, Calif.; Oakland Coliseum in Oakland; Yankee Stadium in New York; Safeco Field in Seattle; and the baseball minor league Florida State League's Single A All-Star game.

They'll also be passed out at the Arena Football games in Richmond, Va., Quad City, Iowa, on June 14, and Albany, N.Y., on June 28.

Racing fans won't be left out in the cold during the month. Soldiers will pass out flags and postcards at the 39th Annual Pontiac Excitement National Hot Rod Association Nationals in Columbus, Ohio, June 12-15 and the Sirius Satellite Radio 400 NASCAR race in Brooklyn, Mich., June 14.

Civilian personnel system 'not cutting it,' Rumsfeld says

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 3, 2003 - The civilian personnel system in the Defense Department "is not cutting it," said Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld today.

Rumsfeld, who spoke at the National Press Club, said that the department is handcuffed by its reliance on an antiquated personnel system. He called today's civilian personnel system "an industrial age organization struggling to perform in an information age world."

DoD has proposed changes to the civilian personnel system designed to make it more flexible and responsive, Rumsfeld said. It cannot happen too quickly. "The system for recruiting, retaining, managing the federal workforce on the civilian side is clearly not working well," he said.

President Bush has proposed the creation of a new national security personnel system that would be merit-based. It would give the department more flexibility and agility as to how it manages the roughly 700,000 civilians in DoD.

More than one-third of the federal workforce is in the Defense Department. Rumsfeld said that managers cannot use this personnel resource effectively, given the current rules. The secretary pointed to the flexibility Congress gave managers in the new Department of Homeland Security as an example.

In addition to the Homeland Security example, Rumsfeld would like to capitalize on the more than two decades worth of pilot projects the department has sponsored to increase workplace flexibility and reward top-notch employees. "The task of fighting the global war on terrorism certainly forces us to recognize that the time has come to bring those same kind of innovative practices to the work of the Department of Defense," he said.

Part of the reform package would allow DoD to turn over about 320,000 jobs now being performed by military personnel to civil service or contractor employees. "This is 2.5 times the number of troops in Iraq when Baghdad fell," he said.

continued on page 6

Arab leaders issue strong statement condemning terror

by Jim Garamone. American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 3, 2003 – Following a meeting with Arab leaders in Sharm el- Sheikh, Egypt, President Bush said the region is united against terror and sees the potential “for broader peace among the peoples of this region.”

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak – the host of the meeting – thanked Bush for his strong commitment to the road map for peace between Israel and Palestine. Jordanian King Abdullah, Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas also attended the meeting.

Mubarak issued a joint statement following the meeting. “We affirm our position against terror and violence,” Mubarak said. “We will continue to fight the scourge of terrorism against humanity and reject the culture of extremist violence in any form or shape, from whatever source or place, regardless of justifications or motives, being fully aware of their danger as a plague that threatens the peace and stability of the whole world.

“We will use all the power of the law to prevent support from reaching illegal organizations, including terrorist groups,” he continued.

Bush praised the Arab leaders for their firm stands against terrorism. He said the leaders have not only stated their beliefs, but are backing up their words with actions. The nations have pledged to stop funds from reaching these organizations and to stop arms from getting into the hands of terrorists. The nations pledged to aid the Palestinian Authority in its fight against terror, Bush said.

Mubarak said the Arab countries reaffirmed their support for the Iraqi people as they rebuild their country.

Bush told the leaders the United States is fully committed to providing security in Iraq’s cities and rebuilding the neglected infrastructure



Posing for peace: King Abdullah II of Jordan, Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Abdullah, President Bush, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, from left, pose for a family photo after their meeting June 3 in Sharm El-Sheik, Egypt. Bush, entering the labyrinth of Middle East peace negotiations, calls for a commitment from Arab leaders to end violence and move toward peace with Israel. (AP/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

of Iraq. “I welcome the support of all the nations represented here for these important goals and hope they will contribute to helping the good people of Iraq,” he said.

Bush will travel to the Jordanian city of Aqaba for a meeting between Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

After that meeting, Bush will travel to Qatar, where he will visit American troops engaged in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Civilian personnel system ‘not cutting it,’ Rumsfeld says continued

Managers use military personnel in these jobs because it is easier than navigating the shoals of the civil service bureaucracy. He said these 320,000 military personnel in civilian jobs is an unnecessary strain on uniformed personnel. He said it is not right, especially when DoD is calling up the reserve components and invoking the stop-loss program.

He said it is also demoralizing for civilian employees. DoD civilian employees want their skills to be used in a crisis. But this doesn’t happen because of the outdated rules that make it difficult to shift personnel, Rumsfeld said.

“For example in Operation Iraqi Freedom, 83 percent of civilians in theater were contractors,” he said. “Only 17 percent were civilian federal workers. The complex web of rules and regulations prevents us from moving DoD civilians to new tasks quickly. So managers turn to military or contractors instead of civil service civilians.”

DoD also has a problem in hiring new workers. He said private firms can size up a prospect at a job fair and offer them the job immediately.

“When DoD interviews the same people, all we can do is offer them a ream of paperwork and promise to get back to them in three to five months,” he said. “It should not be surprising that the most talented folks end up working someplace other than the DoD.”

The bureaucracy manifests itself in strange ways. DoD must deal with more than a thousand local unions. The secretary said one example of the inefficiency of this is with abuse of government credit cards.

“With military personnel we can garnish their wages and recover the stolen funds,” he said. “Not so with civilian personnel. In fact, DoD has been negotiating now for more than two years with more than 1,300 separate union locals for the right to garnish wages of those who use government credit cards for personal purchases – and we still have 30 more unions to go.”

Rumsfeld’s proposed changes would allow the department to negotiate with national offices instead of locals.

Saddam's suspected hiding place excavated

by Slobodan Lekic

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - U.S. Army engineers used bulldozers, backhoes and other equipment to dig through a rubble-filled crater Wednesday, trying to determine if Saddam Hussein died in an April 7 airstrike on a house where he was believed to be hiding.

The site was attacked two days before U.S. forces took control of the capital. The U.S. military said at the time that it had reliable information that Saddam and members of his family and entourage were there.

"For us to expend the amount of money it took to destroy this place, it must have been a key target," said Maj. Scott Slaten of the newly arrived 1st Armored Division, which is now assuming responsibility for Baghdad.

An engineering unit of the Utah National Guard was excavating the site and moving the rubble to an undisclosed location to be examined for human remains, Slaten said.

The United States does not know Saddam's fate. Video allegedly taken on April 9 showed him atop a vehicle waving to supporters in the Azamiyah neighborhood. But U.S. officials question the accuracy of the footage.

It was not clear what prompted the search of the rubble.

For the six weeks that followed the end of fighting, the two-floor home in the upscale Mansour district - in which at least 14 civilians are believed to have died - was left mostly undisturbed.

Now, crews were hard at work.

CIA: al-Qaida strikes likely to be small

by Robert Burns

WASHINGTON (AP) - Small-scale attacks by al-Qaida using chemical, biological, nuclear or radiological agents are more likely than large attacks that cause mass casualties, the CIA says.

In a report describing the means by which terrorists might obtain and use such weapons, the agency said Osama bin Laden's network could easily build a radiological dispersal device, or "dirty bomb," that could be used to create panic and enormous economic damage, but not mass casualties.

The unclassified report was prepared last month by the agency's Directorate of Intelligence as a sort of tutorial for government disaster-response teams on al-Qaida's interest in weapons of mass destruction and the medical aspects of specific chemical and biological agents, CIA spokesman Bill Harlow said Tuesday.

The report reiterates the assertion that al-Qaida's ultimate goal is the use of chemical, biological, nuclear or radiological weapons to cause mass casualties. But it makes no claims about recent progress toward that goal.

Dozens of U.S. troops, three Bradley fighting vehicles and concertina wire protected the engineers clearing the debris.

Officers said they expected to be done with excavation by June 11. Crews were expected to remain for another week to 10 days to repair nearby homes damaged in the airstrikes and to clean the site and surrounding street.

"There's nothing interesting here, just a lot of rubble," said Pfc. Walter Phillips, 30, of Chicago, as he stood near his backhoe at the edge of a 15-foot crater.

Iraqis nearby doubted whether the soldiers would find the remains of Saddam, who they suspect was hiding at another house, just yards away.

"No, no - Saddam ran away. He's hiding," said Munther Meki, a grocer whose shop - its front window gone and shelves empty - is next to the destroyed house.

Meki said Saddam's government rented a small house opposite the targeted building about six months ago and that official-looking vehicles were parked outside before and during the war.

"Nobody knew for sure if it was Saddam or someone else," Meki said.

Except for the broken windows, the empty, unfurnished house appeared structurally undamaged. Its metal doors were held shut with a heavy chain and lock, and the interior was littered with smashed glass and broken bricks.

"The success of any al-Qaida attack and the number of ensuing casualties would depend on many factors, including the technical expertise of those involved, but most scenarios could cause panic and disruption," the report said.

The terrorists have considered a wide range of toxic chemicals for attacks, the report said.

"Typical plots focus on poisoning foods or spreading the agent on surfaces to poison via skin contact, but some also include broader dissemination techniques," it added.

Construction of a dirty bomb is "well within" al-Qaida's capabilities, since radiological materials are relatively easy to obtain, the report said. Hospitals, universities, factories, construction companies and laboratories are possible sources for the material that al-Qaida could use, including Cesium-137, Strontium-90 and Cobalt-60, the report said.

The CIA also said it was possible that bin Laden's operatives would try to launch conventional attacks against elements of the U.S. nuclear industry to cause contamination, disruption and terror.

U.S-Japan united against North Korean threats

by Gerry J. Gilmore, American Forces Press Service

TOKYO, June 3, 2003 – The United States and Japan are united to prevent destabilization in East Asia caused by North Korea's purported efforts to develop nuclear weapons and more powerful ballistic missiles, two senior U.S. officials told reporters here June 3.

U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul D. Wolfowitz met with U.S. Ambassador to Japan Howard H. Baker Jr. at the ambassador's residence near the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo.

Wolfowitz had arrived in Tokyo June 2 after meeting with South Korean officials in the capital city of Seoul.

During a question-and-answer session with the traveling press, Wolfowitz remarked to reporters that the defense relationship between the United States and Japan today "is excellent."

Quoting a recent Japanese poll, Wolfowitz noted that 66 percent of respondents believe U.S. military bases in Japan are needed for regional security – up 10 percentage points from last year.

And, Wolfowitz pointed out, 84 percent of Japanese in the poll support reconstruction efforts in post-Saddam Iraq.

Commenting on the ongoing posture review of American military forces deployed around the world and the United States, Wolfowitz noted that "modest adjustments" would likely be made in the U.S. force structure in Japan.

Japan was the last stop on the deputy defense secretary's six-day East Asia trip where he discussed mutual defense issues with Singaporean, South Korean and Japanese leaders.

In Singapore on May 31, Wolfowitz noted there's no greater threat to peace and stability facing Asian – and other – nations today than North Korea's nuclear program.

And U.S. defense officials believe North Korea is also developing more powerful ballistic missiles – which could be used to carry nuclear, biological or chemical payloads.

Wolfowitz acknowledged that North Korea's nuclear and missile development programs present a regional security challenge to South Korea, Japan and other East Asian countries.

And U.S. officials believe that North Korea – which is experiencing chronic food and fuel shortages – wants to leverage the nuclear weapons/ballistic missile issues to obtain concessions from the international community.



U.S. Ambassador to Japan Howard H. Baker Jr., left, and U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul D. Wolfowitz hold a June 3 question-and-answer session at the ambassador's residence in Tokyo with reporters traveling with the deputy defense secretary. Wolfowitz arrived in Tokyo June 2 after meetings with South Korean officials in Seoul. Wolfowitz remarked to reporters at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo that the defense relationship between the United States and Japan today "is excellent." Photo by Gerry J. Gilmore.

The often-bellikose North Koreans have also in recent years threatened to bombard Seoul using myriad artillery pieces and rockets arrayed along the border in the north.

And now North Korea apparently possesses a nuclear capability that threatens peace and stability in the East Asia region, Baker and Wolfowitz pointed out to reporters.

North Korean artillery tubes aimed at Seoul represents a threat to the South Korean people, Baker noted. And the Japanese, he asserted, are very concerned about North Korea's ballistic missile capability, and potential linkage to weapons of mass destruction – including nuclear.

Baker recalled that Tokyo was victim to a 1995 Sarin attack on its subway system by domestic terrorists. And in 1998, he continued, the North Koreans fired a Taepo Dong 1 ballistic missile over Japan.

"Japan is aware of the fact that it lives in a very dangerous neighborhood," Baker pointed out, "and that it must take account of that for its own survival and defense."

However, Baker asserted, Japan can depend on its long-standing alliance and friendship with the United States in meeting any regional security threats presented by North Korea.

"Coordination between Japan and the United States on defense measures has been extraordinary – and it continues to be," Baker emphasized.

In his May 31 remarks to attendees of the second annual Asia Security Conference in Singapore, Wolfowitz observed that multilateral cooperation holds "important promise for enabling countries" across East Asia "to resolve problems peacefully."

continued on page 9

Birth defects seen in Gulf War vets' kids

by Suzanne Gamboa

WASHINGTON (AP) - Children of veterans of the first Gulf War are more likely to have three specific birth defects than those of soldiers who never served in the gulf, a government study has found.

Researchers found the infants born to male veterans of the 1991 war had higher rates of two types of heart valve defects. They also found a higher rate of a genital urinary defect in boys conceived after the war to Gulf War veteran mothers.

In addition, Gulf War veterans' children born after the war had a certain kidney defect that was not found in Gulf War veterans' children born before the war.

The researchers said they did not have enough information to link the birth defects to possible exposures to poisonous gases, pesticides and other toxic substances, which many Gulf War veterans suspect are culprits of their mysterious illnesses and their children's health problems. They also did not have access to parents' family histories and job exposures.

The study by the Department of Defense Naval Health Research Center and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention examined birth defect data from 1989-93.

In all, researchers identified 11,961 children born to Gulf War veterans and 33,052 children of veterans who had not been deployed in the Gulf. Of those, 450 had mothers who served in the Gulf and 3,966 had non-deployed mothers.

They found four sons of female Gulf War veterans - a 6.5 percent higher rate than nondeployed female veterans - with a condition known as hypospadias. Boys born with the condition have urethra openings located in the middle or the back of the penis.

In postwar conceived infants of male Gulf War veterans, researchers found 10 children with tricuspid valve insufficiency, a 2.7 percent higher rate, and five with aortic valve stenosis, 6 percent higher. Both are conditions in which heart valves do not function properly.

Five postwar children of male Gulf War veterans had renal agenesis, a condition in which part of the kidney fails to grow and develop properly.

"It will be worthwhile to explore the causal relationship between wartime exposure, the occurrence of the four specific defects and the exposures of Gulf War veterans," said Dr. Maria Rosa Araneta, a perinatal epidemiologist teaching at the University of California, San Diego. She worked for the naval center when the study was conducted.

The study was published in the April edition of Birth Defects Research.

Researchers continue to hunt for possible causes of the illnesses experienced by thousands of veterans from the first Gulf War. Many vets have complained of chronic fatigue, migraines, balance

problems, chronic joint pain and other symptoms. Some veterans were more likely to report birth defects in their offspring in a 2001 Veterans Affairs study.

Dr. Michael Kilpatrick, deputy director of the Pentagon's Deployment Health Support office, said the study "should not be used to say we found an answer."

The study did not find significant increases in rates of multiple birth defects in Gulf War veterans' children, he noted. But Araneta said differences are usually found when specific forms of a disease are studied, such as breast cancer rates versus overall cancer rates.

The authors' also said in the study, larger sample sizes were needed for individual, less frequent birth defects, which Kilpatrick also noted.

Decades after the Vietnam War, Veterans Affairs provided health care and compensation for some Vietnam veterans' children with certain birth defects.

"We think they should do the same for Gulf War veterans. These children have very serious and extraordinary problems and families have broken up over it," said Betty Mekdeci, executive director of the Association for Birth Defects Children.

CDC researcher Larry Edmonds said the study also demonstrates the value of statewide birth defects registries. Currently, 11 states have "active" registries in which a public nurse looks at several sources for comprehensive data on children with birth defects.



U.S.-Japan united against North Korean threats continued

Wolfowitz asserted at the conference, "No where is that challenge greater than in confronting the problem posed by North Korea's nuclear program."

In fact, the United States, Japan, South Korea, China and Russia, Wolfowitz noted frequently during his trip, all strongly oppose nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula.

Underlying the relationship between Japan and the United States "is recognition of the fact that Japan is a great sovereign nation," Ambassador Baker remarked, noting that the Japanese "are our allies, but they are also our friends."

Consequently, Baker continued, the U.S.-Japanese relationship "implies, then, a high level of consultation on how best to provide for our respective best interests."

DoD campaign to improve personal financial readiness

by Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 3, 2003 — The Defense Department has begun an education and awareness campaign to help military personnel deal with personal financial problems.

This comes after studies by DoD and private researchers show that personal money woes have become a growing problem that can impact military readiness.

Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness David S.C. Chu announced the start of the Financial Readiness Campaign in May. DoD took the action to help military personnel and their families learn more about financial responsibility and to encourage military families to better manage their finances.

According to Army Col. Marcus Beauregard, director for morale, welfare and recreation policy for DoD, the campaign will focus on five strategies. One will be marketing the importance of good financial management habits to junior enlisted personnel and their families.

The other campaign strategies are getting military leadership involved, making improvements in education and training programs, using partners to assist in those programs and evaluating the campaign frequently to make it better in the future.

“Basically, our objective is to reduce the stress that people feel as a result of financial problems,” Beauregard said, “and to do that through awareness, do that by helping them get out of debt, start saving and to prevent them from being preyed upon by predatory practices.”

Twenty-six federal and nonprofit agencies have agreed to assist DoD in the campaign. They have offered financial counseling, training and education materials available to military support organizations and military families with financial difficulties.

“Our vision for the program is to create a culture where people feel comfortable talking about their financial well-being and ... feel comfortable about getting help if they need that help,” Beauregard noted.

“Right now we don’t see that in the department. ... If someone has a problem, they are more likely to try to solve it themselves or basically cover it until it just becomes too big an issue and they have to find someone to help. Usually at that point it’s too late. So the vision is to make people value the importance of personal financial well-being and financial ability.

The Financial Readiness Campaign is a result of a study presented to Congress May 31, entitled the “Report on Personal and Family Financial Management Programs,” which indicated that financial problems by military personnel and their families have an impact on readiness and productivity.

DoD and contractor Rand Corporation’s National Defense Research Institute compiled the report. It noted that financial difficulties can have significant mission impact, such as requiring an individual to

return from a deployment to address a financial emergency. This can be stressful and costly for the individual and the unit, the report stated.

NDRI researchers also reported that commanders see poor personal financial management as the main problem facing junior enlisted personnel and their families. The report acknowledged that unit leaders spend much of their time dealing with military personnel who have financial problems.

Poor personal financial management, for example, costs the Navy \$250 million annually in productivity and salary losses, Beauregard cited from another survey conducted for the Navy in 2000.

The Navy also stated that 78 percent of commanders surveyed reported using up to 25 percent of their time addressing financial issues.

In addition, individual surveys, studies and reports by the services, conducted between November 2001 and December 2002, indicated that 25 percent to 35 percent of junior enlisted had problems paying bills or experienced at least moderate financial difficulty.

An Air Force survey on personnel financial readiness showed that pay grades E-3 through E-5, which comprise 50 percent of the force, applied for 78 percent of the assistance provided by the Air Force Aid Society. This same group also received 76 percent of the nonjudicial punishment for indebtedness issues.

And DoD’s May 31 report indicated E-1s through E-6s have the most difficult time making ends meet. It attributes lower-enlisted service members’ trouble in paying their bills to poor financial education and spending habits rather than from their level of income. The report said that low levels of savings and poor use of credit are common and create long-term personal financial management problems.

For example, in the NDRI study the Air Force reported new recruits carrying an average of \$6,000 debt — 50 percent for car loans and the rest in student loans and credit card bills.

Fifty-three percent of Air Force E-3s through E-5s were paying off non-car/house loans that were over two years old, and 39 percent were carrying a balance for more than a month on three or more credit cards.

The NDRI study reported 18 percent of Navy enlisted members were delinquent on credit card payments, and credit card debts were the main reason for Army enlisted personnel financial problems.

“The biggest problem military personnel make is that they are living beyond their income,” Beauregard explained. “It doesn’t happen all at once, it happens incrementally.”

“People start seeing things they want, they’ll put money towards it, they’ll start stretching those payments out, they’ll use credit —

continued on page 11

eCybermission needs ambassadors, guides

WASHINGTON

(Army News Service, June 3, 2003) —

eCybermission, the Army-sponsored new Web-based science, math and technology competition for middle school students, needs Army volunteers for next year's contest.

Specifically, eCybermission officials are looking for soldier, Army civilian or retiree volunteers to serve as "ambassadors" to promote the contest in their local middle schools and "cyberguides" to assist competitors conduct online research.

The Army launched eCybermission last October. More than 900 teams comprising 3228 students participated the first year, with 442 teams submitting entries. National eCybermission winners for academic year 2002-2003 were honored with a formal dinner and savings bonds awards in Washington, D.C., May 30.

In the competition, students work as part of a three- to four-person team with an adult supervisor on one of four mission areas: sports and recreation, arts and entertainment, environment, or health and safety.

Top prize is a \$5,000 savings bond per team member. All participants get an eCybermission T-shirt.

Last year eCybermission was offered to seventh- and eighth-graders. This year's competition will expand to include sixth-graders as well.

Officials said they hope for a more robust eCybermission ambassador force to help make more schools and students aware of the



Check clearance, officials said. Ambassadors and cyberguides will be trained prior to assuming their eCybermission duties.

Ambassadors must be willing to contribute 15-20 hours a month between August and November. Cyberguides should have a science, math or technology background and be willing to work two shifts of one to two hours per week.

To volunteer as an ambassador, visit www.ecybermission.com, or e-mail ambassadorprogram@ecybermission.com.

To volunteer as a cyberguide, visit www.ecybermission.com, or e-mail misioncontrol@ecybermission.com.



OPERATION

TRIBUTE

TO

FREEDOM

www.defenselink.mil/specials/tribute/

DoD campaign to improve personal financial readiness continued

there's a lot of problems with the use of credit. And then those things start to mount up to where their discretionary income becomes very small," Beauregard said.

"And then if they have anything that occurs where they really need to have that money, then they are dependent upon credit or financing something and that gets them further into that debt line rather than having a balanced financial approach. ... They tend not to plan, they tend to just let these things accumulate and then they get overwhelmed."

In addition, the DoD report said that a "disproportionately low number" of junior enlisted personnel have established savings for emergencies and large purchases in the future.

The Army reported that 55.8 percent of enlisted members have less than two weeks of emergency savings. Twenty-four percent of respondents to the Air Force's financial assessment survey of E-3s through E-5s said they had no savings, and 29 percent said they had less than \$1,000 in savings. The Navy reported 54 percent of its junior sailors as having less than \$1,000 in savings.

"If you talk to any financial educator, they'll say that the No.1 thing that people need to do is to just have a very simple plan that they can live by," Beauregard emphasized.

"And that's just a way of making sure that they put a little bit aside, some people call it paying your self first. The rest is just making sure you stay within your level of income to pay all your bills."

competition.

Volunteers must have a National Agency



The Army ordered the 3rd Infantry Division to remain in Baghdad, where soldiers continue to address local problems like those of Vegen Kedekian, who told soldiers that vagrants were vandalizing the Ministry of Education building. Photo by Rick Scavetta, Stars and Stripes.



U.S. soldiers help Iraqis push an old passenger bus that stalled upon approach to a bridge in Fallujah on June 3. The soldiers are planning to take control of Fallujah and Habaniyah, two towns in central Iraq that are known for their anti-American sentiments. (AP/Ali Haider)



Members of a weapons inspection team examine a suspected mobile biological weapons facility that was recovered by U.S. Forces in northern Iraq in this image from late April, 2003. The CIA is reviewing an important prewar intelligence report that concluded Iraq possessed biological and chemical weapons, the New York Times reported on June 4, 2003. The review comes amid international criticism of the U.S. and Britain for failing to uncover "smoking gun" proof of a significant Iraqi weapons of mass destruction (WMD) program. U.S. and British claims that Baghdad possessed significant numbers of WMDs was the prime justification for the invasion of Iraq. Reuters photo.



One of seven inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency on his way to Baghdad checks in his luggage at Vienna's Schwechat airport on Wednesday, June 4, 2003. The inspectors are tasked with investigating the Tuwaiha Nuclear Facility in Iraq, which was reportedly looted. (AP Photo/Rudi Blaha)

ARNEWS
Operation Iraqi Freedom

[www.dtic.mil/armylink/news/
stories/](http://www.dtic.mil/armylink/news/stories/)

www.goarmy.com